



NEWS RELEASE

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Fort Riley Regional Program Information Meeting To Be Hosted By USDA Rural Development

April 18th Junction City Sessions To Present Details On Available Agency Funding

Topeka, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks announced today that the Agency will begin hosting a second round of 'Fort Riley Regional Initiative' informational meetings, the first to be held in Junction City on April 18th. The Agency meeting, to be co-hosted with the Junction City-Geary County Military Affairs Council, will cover USDA Rural Development programs available for the region to address the housing and community development needs due to the planned expansion of personnel at Fort Riley.

USDA Rural Development, in partnership with Fort Riley, announced the Agency's 'Fort Riley Regional Initiative' during the signing of the first-ever Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the USDA and the U.S. Army in June 2005. The MoU committed both USDA and Fort Riley to cooperatively assist both the personnel relocating to Fort Riley and the numerous communities in the region impacted by the Post's expansion.

"USDA Rural Development's 'Fort Riley Regional Initiative' will provide an excellent opportunity for communities benefiting from the Fort Riley expansion to expand affordable housing opportunities, along with enhancing their local infrastructure. Whether it be improving local housing or upgrading community projects such as health care services, USDA Rural Development is positioned to assist in this important Kansas economic development opportunity," commented State Director Banks.

"The Junction City-Geary County Military Affairs Council is delighted to be co-sponsoring this informative event with USDA Rural Development," said Sam Robinson, Junction City – Geary County Military Affairs Council Director. "The opportunities that USDA can offer to both the communities and Soldiers in the Fort Riley region is impressive. We try to take advantage of any opportunity to bring communities together to learn more about ways to best fulfill the needs due to the Post's growth. I appreciate USDA Rural Development's commitment in helping the region with this and so many other issues."

The USDA Rural Development informational meeting will cover both the Agency's housing programs and community development programs. Individual breakout sessions will be presented for [1] Homebuilders / Developers, [2] Realtors, [3] Public bodies (Infrastructure / Community Facilities), [4] Business development entities, [5] Community nonprofits / Faith-based organizations. The location and time of the Junction City meeting follows:

Geary County Convention Center / April 18, 2006: 310 Hammons Drive (next to Courtyard by Marriott - located at I-70 Exit 298), Junction City.

Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m., General Session and Breakout Sessions from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

(continued)

Additional information regarding the meeting can be obtained by contacting USDA Rural Development's Manhattan office at 785-776-7582 (extension #4).

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, individuals may contact the Agency at 785-271-2700 or by visiting the Agency's Kansas website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks .

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